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REMARKS

This communication is in response to the restriction requirement mailed on October 7, 2005 as well as a telephone conversation between the examiner and applicants through their attorney, Linda P. Ji on Friday, November 4, 2005.

In the restriction requirement, it was reported that Group I including claims 1-36 and 39-43 was drawn to a fabric assembly classified in class 428, subclass 911. Group I included claims 37 and 38 was drawn to a method of making a fabric assembly. Applicants hereby elect Group I. Consequently, claims 37 and 38 have been canceled. It is further noted that claims 12, 14, 19, and 21-23 have been canceled during the amending on the claims. Also, claims 44-46 are new. Thus, it is believed that Group I currently includes claims 1-11, 13, 15-18, 20, 24-36, and 39-46.

Also, the restriction requirement requires a species election to plates that are identical or non-identical; a substrate that is woven, knit, or non-woven fabric; and plates that are polymeric or ceramic.

During the telephone conversation, applicants requested permission to elect a repeating plate pattern instead of identical or non-identical plates. It is believed that an election to identical or non-identical plates would be too confining because in the present inventions the plates can be one, two, or more shapes. The important feature is that the plates form a pattern that is repeating. Consequently, as discussed on the telephone, claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the plates are arranged in a repeating pattern. In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the requirement to elect between identical and non-identical plates be withdrawn.

With respect to electing woven, knit, or non-woven fabric, election is made to woven fabric. It is noted that claim 45 is new and includes the feature of knit fabric that was originally placed in claim 19. The feature of woven fabric originally placed in

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claim 19, now canceled, has been placed in claim 3.

With respect to electing polymeric or ceramic plates, election is made to polymeric plates. The polymeric plates were originally placed in claim 14. Claim 14 has been canceled and its features placed in claim 3.

The restriction required also requests a listing of claims currently readable upon the elected species. Such a listing of claims include claim 3 and claims (directly or indirectly) depending on claim 3.


Thus, the elected species includes claims 3-11, 13, 15, 20, 26-36, 43-44, and 46.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to deposit account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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